

Abstract

5 A switch/router circuit integrates a multi-port memory array with the
Media Access Control (MAC) units to facilitate direct transfer of packet
payloads to the destination port. The store and forward functions are performed
using a single memory cell with multiple pass gates, one pass gate designated
for each MAC port. That is, a switch router is implemented using the multi-port
10 memory array such that the number of ports in each memory cell is proportional
to the number of MACs integrated in the single monolithic chip. An arbitrator
arbitrates between the integrated ports, a lookup table identifies the destination
port and a system controller controls all of the integrated elements.

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